

**IMPACT STATEMENT  
FOR  
NEW FOUNTAIN HILLS FIRE DISTRICT**

January 28, 2003  
(May 1, 2003, Updated)

Pursuant to the provisions of A.R.S.§48-261, the undersigned submit and enclose the following as a Fire District Impact Statement for the proposed creation of a new fire district to be known as Fountain Hills Fire District.

**1. Description of Boundaries**

Attached to this statement are two exhibits.

Exhibit A: is a legal description of the boundaries for the proposed fire district.

Exhibit B: is a detailed, accurate map of the area to be included in the proposed fire district.

**2. Estimated Assessed Valuation**

The estimated 2002 (year) assessed valuation as provided by the office of the Assessor, Maricopa County, State of Arizona on November 13, 2002, for the area within the proposed fire district as of November 13, 2002 is Two hundred seventy million, six hundred two thousand, eight hundred sixty-six (\$270,602,866).

**3. Property Tax Liability**

The estimated change in property tax liability of the proposed Fountain Hills Fire District will be \$0.97 per \$100 assessed valuation. The new District proposes to have the same tax rate as in the last budget of the old Fountain Hills Fire District. Pursuant to ARS§48-807 the tax levy to support that budget is “not to exceed \$3.00 per \$100.00 of assessed value”. Final rate will be based on a budget that is submitted by District Board.

Example: A \$300,000 house with an assessed value of \$30,000, at the new Fountain Hills Fire District proposed secondary tax rate of \$0.97, would have an increased tax liability of \$291.00 per year after creation of this District.

**4. Benefits that will result from the New Fountain Hills Fire District:**

a. The New District will receive Fire District Assistance Tax in the amount of \$300,000 to help defray costs to taxpayers. This money is available to fire districts only.

b. The New District will receive State Fire Marshall Pension Fund monies in the amount of \$25,000 to help defray costs to taxpayers. This money is available to fire districts only.

c. Direct accountability of Directors of New District to the electorate via the ballot box. If the citizens don't like the quality of service they are receiving, they have recourse via public meetings and by voting out offending members of the District. Currently under Town jurisdiction, the fire service is just one of many town-run departments with limited community oversight.

d. The New District gives the citizens of Fountain Hills direct input over every aspect of the District including budgets, taxation and actual operations. Whereas, if the fire and EMS services remain incorporated in the Town budget and operation, direct accountability of the fire service is lost among the many other responsibilities of the Town.

e. Formation of the New District would remove \$2.6 million (the estimated cost of fire and emergency medical service per annum) from the Town of Fountain Hills' budget, which is already losing approximately \$140,000 per month and currently projects a \$5 million deficit in fiscal 2004.

f. A financially independent Fire District is insulated from the financial shortfall of the Town, thereby assuring uninterrupted fire and EMS services so critical for our citizens.

**5. Injuries that will result from the New District:**

a. Money to support fire and emergency medical service must be raised. A secondary property tax in the amount of \$0.97 (same as the old Fire District) per \$100 Assessed value would be levied on all property in the New District.

**6. Proposed Members of the Fountain Hills Fire District's Organizing Board of Directors:**

/s/  
John M. Cutillo  
16714 Nicklaus Drive  
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268  
Retired, Former Mayor of Fountain Hills

/s/  
John Wyman  
16905 E. Jacklin Drive  
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268  
Retired, Town Councilman of Fountain Hills

/s/  
F. Tim Yoder  
15459 E. El Lago Boulevard  
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268  
General Contractor, Yoder Built Construction

"Members of the board shall be qualified electors of the district. The County Board of Supervisors shall order an increase in the number of members of the proposed district board 120 days before the next general election so that 5 board positions will be voted on at the next General Election."

Supporting documents can be viewed at the Maricopa County web site:

[http://www.maricopa.gov/clk\\_board/firedistrict.asp](http://www.maricopa.gov/clk_board/firedistrict.asp)